

Message Text

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S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1692

EXDIS

MAPUTO FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SU, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISIT TO KHRTOUM: CURRENT TRENDS IN
US-SUDAN RELATIONS AND EMBASSY OPERATIONS

1. SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION: IN CONSIDERING CURRENT MAJOR THEMES US-SUDAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND EMBASSY OPERATIONS FOUR GENERAL AREAS OF ACTIVITY CAN BE IDENTIFIED: POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC/AID AND ADMINISTRATIVE. ALL AREAS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT ACCOMPANY AN INCREASINGLY WARM AND COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP, HEIGHTENED INTEREST AMONG AMERICANS IN SUDAN AND ANTICIPATED GROWTH IN EMBASSY AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SUDAN. TURNING POINT OCCURRED IN MID-1976 WHEN RELATIONS WERE FULLY NORMALIZED. PACE AND EXTENT OF CHANGES ONLY NOW BECOMING CLEAR, HOWEVER. NEXT FEW YEARS SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PROGRAMS AND POLICIES NOW BEING FORMULATED.

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2. POLITICAL: BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE PRESENTLY WARM AND ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME EVEN CLOSER. THERE ARE OCCASIONAL REMINDERS OF UNPLEASANT MEMORIES AND PROBLEMS CAN ARISE BY FAILURE OF US TO SUPPORT SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR FULLY TO MEET OFTEN EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, THERE BROAD AREA MUTUAL INTEREST

BETWEEN US AND SUDAN AS WELL AS GENUINE DESIRE BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS. SUDAN GOVT, PRESENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH WEAK OR HOSTILE NEIGHBORS, NOTABLY LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA BOTH OF WHOM ARE CONSIDERED TO BE WORKING IN LEAGUE WITH DOMESTIC OPPONENTS OF REGIME AND SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES AGAINST SUDAN. MEANWHILE, SUDAN CLOSELY ALLIED WITH EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND PRESENTLY THERE MAJOR STRUGGLE UNDERWAY BY THESE STATES TO STEM INFLUENCE OF LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, USSR AND THEIR ALLIES WHO, IT ASSUMED, AIM ULTIMATELY TO TOPPLE REGIMES HERE AND IN CAIRO AND EVEN GAIN CONTROL OVER SAUDI OIL. INTERNAL STABILITY OF NIMEIRI REGIME AND GENERAL REGIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION CLOSELY RELATED. REGIONAL COMPLEX OF ISSUES HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AT HIGH LEVELS IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE AND HAS HAD RESULT OF INTENSIFYING INTEREST AND ATTENTION ON SUDAN.

3. MILITARY: IN LAST YEAR MILITARY TIES WITH SUDAN HAVE EXPANDED. COMIDEASTFOR ADM CROWE VISITED KHARTOUM AND PORT SUAN IN LAST YEAR AND HIS SHIPS NOW CALL REGULARLY AT PORT SUDAN WHERE IN MARCH FOUR-DESTROYER TURNOVER TOOK PLACE. IN FY-77, WE BEGAN SMALL (100,000 DOLLAR) GRANT MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM. IT MAY BE EXPANDED IN FY-78. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD GOOD CHANCE EXISTS THAT DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE WILL BE ESTABLISHED HERE SOON. PRESIDENT FORD DETERMINED THAT SUDAN COULD MAKE FMS PURCHASES, AND PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY AGREED TO SELL SIX C-130 TRANSPORTS

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TO SUDAN. CONGRESS HAS UNTIL MAY 29 TO EXPRESS ANY OBJECTION. IF C-130 SALE FULLY APPROVED USAF TEAM WILL COME HERE THIS SUMMER FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AND PREPARATION LETTER OF OFFER AGREEMENT. IF C-130 SALE APPROVED, WE CAN EXPECT REQUESTS FOR F-5 AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS, AND PERHAPS OTHER ITEMS. STRONG SUPPORT FOR US MILITARY SALES TO SUDAN HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND CAN BE EXPECTED FROM SAUDIS AS WELL. HOWEVER, IT NOT YET CLEAR HOW CONGRESS OR PRESS WILL VIEW EXPANDING MILITARY SALES TO SUDAN. USG HAS RECENTLY INDICATED LESS RELUCTANCE TO CONSIDER SUCH SALES THAN HAD BEEN SO PREVIOUSLY. EVOLUTION US-SUDAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, PARTICULARLY SALES RELATIONSHIP, A PRINCIPAL PREOCCUPATION IN EMBASSY CURRENTLY.

4. ECONOMIC: SUDAN IS COUNTRY AT ONCE VERY POOR AND IN MANY WAS BACKWARD AND ALSO FULL OF FUTURE PROMISE. THUS WE ARE BEGINNING WHAT WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC

ASSISTANCE EFFORT AND AT SAME TIME ARE LOOKING WITH INCREASING INTEREST ON SUDAN AS ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN MARKETS. WITH LARGE-SCALE ARAB ASSISTANCE AT ITS CORE, NOT TO MENTION CONSIDERABLE OTHER AID FROM EUROPEANS AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES. SUDAN EMBARKING ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. DURING 1980S AND LATER SUDAN SHOULD EMERGE AS ONE OF WORLD'S MAJOR FOOD PRODUCERS. MOREOVER, COUNTRY HAS VERY INTERESTING MINERAL RESOURCES ALSO, AND ALREADY CHEVRON IS IN MIDST 50 MILLION DOLLAR EXPLORATION EFFORT WHICH IT THINKS COULD LEAD TO AS MUCH AS 2 MILLION BPD PRODUCTION OF OIL IF ALL GOES WELL. MANY PROBLEMS EXIST, HOWEVER, AND WHILE OUR MAJOR FOCUS IS ON TRADE PROMOTION, WE ALSO CLOSELY FOLLOW FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS. WITHIN USG WE LOOKING TO SEE WHEN AND WHETHER EXIMBANK AND OPIC PREPARED LOOK MORE FAVORABLY ON SUDAN THAN IS CASE NOW. REGARDING AID, GREATEST PROBLEM
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AND ISSUE BEFORE US IS SIMPLY HOW TO OVERCOME INCREDIBLE RED TAPE AND GET PROGRAM MOVING. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, IS MAJOR DEBATE AMONG THOSE INVOLVED OVER WHAT APPROACH SHOULD TAKEN. AID, UNDER ITS PRESENT MANDATE AND WITH CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS, FEELS COMPELLED TO LIMIT ITSELF TO PROJECTS THAT AID RURAL POOR DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING MOST SUDANESE, THINK THIS IS NOT WAY TO MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE EFFORT HERE, AT LEAST, AND THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT NEW AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TOWARD LATTER VIEW.

5. ADMINISTRATION: OUR ACTIVE AND EXPANDING RELATIONS ARE LEADING TO SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN EMBASSY ITSELF WITH LARGEST EXPANSION LIKELY TO BE IN AID. THUS STAFFING, INCLUDING HOUSING AND SUPPORT FOR NEW EMBASSY FAMILIES, WILL BE PRINCIPAL TASK FOR EMBASSY OVER NEXT YEAR OR SO. SIMILARLY, CHANCERY IS QUICKLY BECOMING INADEQUATE, AND WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN SEARCH FOR PROPERTY ON WHICH NEW BUILDING WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE BUILT. THESE TASKS ARE MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY VARIOUS SHORTAGES IN KHARTOUM AND RAPIDLY RISING RENTS. BOGOSIAN

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